



Family Readiness Groups

Family Readiness Groups

- **Authority**
 - **Family Readiness is a commander's responsibility, AR 600-20**
- **Definition**
 - **Official command sponsored organization**
 - ◆ FRG leaders are appointed in writing by the commander
 - **Network of communications among family members, the chain of command and community resources**
 - ◆ Conduit to support
- **Structure**
 - **Should be tailored to the unit, its mission and demographics of the unit**

Deployment/Contingency Operations Support

- Family Assistance Centers (FAC)
 - Installation and RC units must tailor their FAC to their needs
 - FACs should be centralized and readily accessible
 - Mob/deployment support of Soldiers and families is a key ACS function



- Rear Detachment Commanders
 - Knowledgeable on accessing support systems
 - Must talk to FRG leaders about everything
 - Must be quality, caring, experienced and trained

- Family Readiness Groups (FRG)
 - Play a central role in sustaining families
 - FRG leaders must know whereabouts of all – test communications
 - Must be inclusive – reaching out to junior enlisted spouses
 - FRG volunteers must receive training
 - Conduct Level I Army Family Team Building classes before deployment
 - Conduct Deployment Cycle Support Redeployment phase and Post Deployment phase tasks for family members – reintegration training
 - Command interest is essential

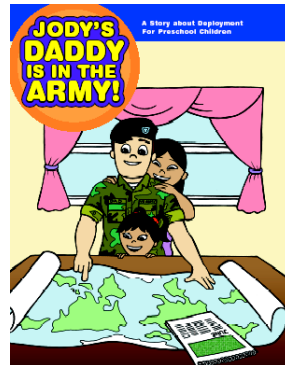
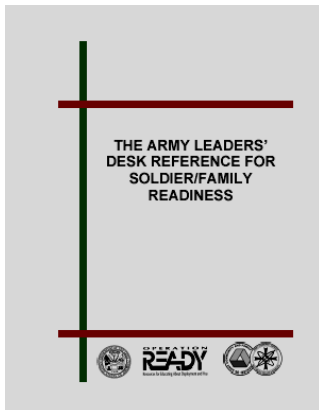
Family Readiness Capability

- **At the Unit Level**
 - Rear Detachment
 - Family Readiness Groups (traditional, virtual)
 - Family Care Plans
 - Briefings: pre/post-deployment briefings, Deployment Cycle Support
 - Family Readiness Group Deployment/Support Assistants
- **Community Support**
 - Chaplains and other community agencies
 - Army National Guard Family Assistance Centers
 - Army Community Service (ACS) Centers
 - ◆ VTCs, FRG/RDC training, pre/post-deployment briefings
 - ◆ Army Family Team Building
 - ◆ Financial Readiness
 - ◆ Operation READY
 - on-line at www.GoAcs.org
 - Translated into German, Spanish and Korean

Operation READY

Resources for Educating About Deployment and You

- Curriculum is a series of training modules, videos, and resource books used by ACS, National Guard and Army Reserve Family Readiness Program staff to train and prepare Army families, Soldiers and key unit personnel for deployments and reunions.
- First published in 1994, and updated in 1999 and 2002 by Texas A&M.
- New modules and updates are currently under development to reflect Global War on Terrorism lessons learned and requirements.
- Training, Reference Modules and Videos On-Line at www.GoACS.org:
 - Family Readiness Group Leader's Handbook
 - Rear Detachment Commanders' Handbook
 - Pre-Deployment and On-going Readiness
 - Soldier and Family Member Deployment Survival Guide
 - Reunion and Homecoming
 - Army Leader's Desk Reference
 - Army Family Readiness Handbook
 - Family Assistance Centers
 - Children & Teenager Workbooks
 - 5 Videos
- New Material under development:
 - Non-Traditional FRGs
 - Managing Crisis in Units
 - Medical Family Assistance Center
 - Children and Youth Deployment Stress
 - Deployment Cycle Support Program



Authorized Funding Support

- **APF/NAF Support**
 - Official mail (Official Mail Manual DoD 4525.8)
 - FRG newsletters (Official Mail Manual DoD 4525.8)
 - Use of Government facilities and equipment (DA Pam 608-47)
 - Use of government-owned or leased vehicles (AR 608-1, para 5-10 c. and d.)
 - Three areas where APF and/or NAF can be used to support FRG volunteers, depending on command approval and funds availability
 - ◆ Training and travel (APF or NAF)
 - ◆ Reimbursement of incidental expenses (APF or NAF)
 - ◆ Awards, banquets and mementos (NAF)
- **Family Readiness Group Generated Funds**
 - No limit on the amount
 - Follows Informal Funds guidance in AR 600-20
 - Basic rules for managing FRG funds
 - ◆ Not spent in a way that could appear to be improper or contrary to Army interests
 - ◆ FRG leaders should be aware of Army policy
 - ◆ Used for activities that support entire group, not specific individuals
 - ◆ Limited to expenses that support FRG purpose and mission

Tips for Family Readiness Success

- Develop command team philosophy
- Encourage use of community activities and programs
- Network and share responsibilities within the unit
- Understand roles and responsibilities of ACS, RDC, Red Cross, Casualty Assistance and FRG
- Have regular debriefing sessions with garrison staff
- Self-Reliant Families enhance unit readiness and mission performance